

CITY of BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC SPEAKING SESSION
OCTOBER 3, 2011
6:30 PM

ATTENDANCE: Council members: Brannelly, M. McCarthy, A. Ayala, Taylor-Moye, Walsh, T. McCarthy, Austin, Lyons, Vizzo-Paniccia, Bonney, Blunt, dePara, M. Ayala, Martinez, Paoletto, Curwen, Baker, Holloway

ABSENT: Council members: Brantley, Silva

Council President McCarthy called the public speaking session to order at 6:40 pm.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2011, AT 6:30 P.M., IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE, BRIDGEPORT, CT.

NAME

SUBJECT

Lenora Bromfield
Terrace
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Trafficking drugs and prostitution 66 Washington
on the street.

Council President called the speaker to come forward to address the city council. The speaker wasn't present.

Carl McBean
84-86 Washington Terrace

Sanitation issues and trafficking on
Washington Terrace.

Mr. McBean stated that he has lived in Bridgeport for years on a small block on Washington Terrace. He said for the past year, motorists use the small street and speed up and down it, which poses a danger to the small children in the area. He emphasized that the cars don't stop. He was there to appeal to the council to have someone do

something to prevent the speeding. In addition, he said in the area where he lives, there is always a crowd from one corner to the other, noting that it's obvious what they are doing there. He stressed that he pays taxes and whenever he sees something going on, he speaks up. He relayed that one day last week, he saw a strange man near where he lives, so he asked him what he was doing there and he said he thought he saw a gun. He expressed that these people are total strangers. He explained that he moved here because he thought it was safe, but the area is becoming a war zone. He appealed to the council again go do something. He mentioned that there is also sidewalk damage in the area that causes a hazard to those walking. He asked the council to address the problem.

Council President McCarthy stated that Mr. McBean should give the information to Tom White for the proper council members to address.

Clyde Nicholson

signed up prior to the session

Mr. Nicholson stated he was there to propose a suggestion and to voice his complaints. He stressed that there are too many killings going on in Bridgeport and it doesn't seem as though anything is being done. He spoke about kids not having jobs and he suggested that with all the homes in Bridgeport that need to be fixed up and other projects needed; such as fixing sidewalks and helping the elderly with household repairs, he suggested that the kids could help with the work.

He went on to say that black kids in the city were being slaughtered; he noted this is a new form of genocide that destroys families. He felt that every time he turns around, a black youth is getting killed. He emphasized that he fears for everyone and himself getting shot. He asked to call for everyone to come together to address the problem. He stressed that we can't ever straighten out our own community, even with a war going on. He stated that he was a democrat and he felt that since the city council was a large democratic body, they have a vote. He asked the number of council members that sat on the council – Council President McCarthy responded that the entire city council was democrats. Mr. Nicholson stressed that we have lost control of the city; he recommended posting police officers in every area where there is a high crime rate. Overall, he emphasized that something had to be done. He repeated that it was time for the madness to stop!

The public speaking session was closed at 6:50 pm.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, October 3, 2011

7:00 p.m.

**City Council Chambers, City Hall - 45 Lyon Terrace
Bridgeport, Connecticut**

ATTENDANCE: Council members: Brannelly, M. McCarthy, A. Ayala, Taylor-Moye, Walsh, T. McCarthy, Austin, Lyons, Vizzo-Paniccia, Bonney, Blunt, dePara, M. Ayala, Martinez, Paoletto, Curwen, Baker, Holloway

ABSENT: Council members: Brantley, Silva

Mayor Finch called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

Prayer - the prayer was offered by Council member A. Ayala.

Pledge of Allegiance - the pledge was led by M. Ayala.

Roll Call - the city clerk took the roll and announced there was a quorum.

City Council Citation: Bishop Shane T. Gaskins of Jesus Saves Ministries, Inc. in recognition of contributions to quality of life in Bridgeport.

Mayor Finch, Council President McCarthy, Council member Baker and Council member Holloway came forward to present the citation.

Bishop Gaskins approached the front of council chambers to accept the citation.

Council President McCarthy expressed that the city council likes to do positive things in recognizing those who have made a contribution to Bridgeport. He said this was a great example of a ministry in the community and being part of the community. He thanked Council members: Baker and Holloway for bringing the citation to the council's attention. And he thanked the recipient on behalf of the entire city council.

Council member Holloway expressed that the congregation really cleaned up the neighborhood by picking up bottles and cans. He relayed that a lot of the trash came from purchases made at the store and from people throwing trash on the street. He expressed

that Bishop Gaskins and his church members did a great clean up and he thanked them for their commitment to the community.

Council member Baker expressed that it was good to see the church be what it's suppose to be, by going out into the community and helping it grow and for educating the kids. He thanked Bishop Gaskins for his contribution and he asked that he continue the good work.

Mayor Finch invited Mother Perry to join Bishop Gaskins in front to take a picture. He noted that the entire congregation was present – *they all came forward to take a picture.*

Mayor Finch stated that Bishop Gaskins is loved for what he does by spreading Christian faith. He expressed that the city is about building bridges with people in Bridgeport and the community. He asked him to keep up the good work!

Council member Baker read the citation that highlighted the city's sincere appreciation to Bishop Gaskins for his contribution and guidance provided to the residents of the City of Bridgeport - *acknowledged through applause!*

Mayor Proclamation: A Special Observance of the City's 175th Anniversary on its official incorporation date.

Mayor Finch asked the City Clerk Fleeta Hudson to come forward. He stated that students from Hallen School were present. He asked them if they knew how old the city was. A student present stated the city was 175 years old. Mayor Finch expressed that it was Bridgeport's 175th birthday today. He noted that they were planning a large celebration at McLevy Green on Saturday, October 15 from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm. He stated that 175 years ago today, the city was officially incorporated to enforce legislature – *he read the proclamation and presented the plaque to Fleeta Hudson.*

The City Clerk Fleeta Hudson said it was an honor and a pleasure to accept the plaque for the City of Bridgeport on its 175th Anniversary. She good naturedly expressed that she felt like she's been city clerk for that long!

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

Approval of City Council Minutes: September 6, 2011

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

- 134-10** Communication from City Clerk re Items Pending before City Council Committees pursuant to City Council Rules Ch. XIII (11), **ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.**
- 135-10** Communication from Planning Department re Proposed Acquisition of 115 Virginia Avenue from the State of Connecticut, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.
- 136-10** Communication from Central Grants and Community Development re Grant Submission: State Department of Social Services for 2011-2012 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Grant (SNAP), referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.
- 137-10** Communication from Central Grants and Community Development re Grant Submission: State Department of Social Services for 2011-2012 Social Services Block Grant (SSBG), referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.
- 138-10** Communication from Central Grants and Community Development re Grant Submission: Connecticut State Library for 2012 Historic Documents Preservation Grant Program, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.
- 139-10** Communication from Central Grants and Community Development re Grant Submission: State Department of Public Health for 2012-2015 Syringe Exchange Program Grant (SEP), referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO REFER
COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES
** COUNCIL MEMBER dePARA SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

Mayor Finch asked if there were any items to be removed from the consent calendar.

Council member Walsh requested to remove item ***132-10** Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Disposition of City Owned Property located at 2836 Fairfield Avenue; Black Rock Bank & Trust Company.

The city clerk read the remaining items into the record.

***116-10** Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Grant Submission: 2011-2012 Substance Abuse Prevention Program.

***124-10(PHO)** Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Public Hearing Ordered for October 17, 2011 regarding Disposition of City Owned Properties to Habitat for Humanity.

***130-10** Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Grant Submission: 2011 Funding for Medical Reserve Corps Grant.

***131-10** Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Department of Public Health for 2011-2012 Per Capita Grant.

***132-10** Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Disposition of City Owned Property located at 2836 Fairfield Avenue; Black Rock Bank & Trust Company. – *removed*

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO APPROVE
** COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Mayor Finch returned to the item that was removed from the consent calendar

***132-10** Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Disposition of City Owned Property located at 2836 Fairfield Avenue; Black Rock Bank & Trust Company.

Council member Curwen stated the item passed unanimously in committee.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN MOVED TO APPROVE
** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED**

Council member Walsh stated that he learned some information today regarding the background of the LLC that will acquire the property. He said he found out they were a competent firm. As far as the resolution, he questioned if it was the work of the Office of Planning and Economic Development or the work of the developer. He explained that in reading the contract, it seemed complicated for the sale of one building that contains the resolution, letter of intent and the LDA. He said he would just like the information related to what the building was sold for without all the complicated paperwork involved. He said his only concern was taking a big project and making it a smaller project where possible.

Council member M. McCarthy thanked Council member Walsh for his comments. He mentioned that the building was in bad shape and he felt the developer will come in and improve the historic value of the building.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON:

117-10 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee
Report re: Grant Submission: 2011-2012 YSB Enhancement Grant.

Council member Curwen stated that the item passed unanimously in committee.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN MOVED TO APPROVE
** COUNCIL MEMBER WALSH SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Other Business:

**** COUNCIL MEMBER dePARA MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES FOR THE
PURPOSE OF ADDING AN ITEM TO THE AGENDA
** COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN SECONDED**

Council member Holloway requested a roll call vote

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER dePARA MOVED TO APPROVE
** COUNCIL MEMBER T. McCARTHY SECONDED**

Council member dePara stated there was an urgency to submit the item to the Education and Social Services Committee pertaining to a concern about Columbus School. He explained the matter involved a report to testify about the process of school remediation.

Council President McCarthy clarified that the normal process is for an item to be presented to the council president. He stated that he supported the item 100%.

Council member Holloway stated the resolution was fine, but he didn't think the matter fell within the Education & Social Services Committee, noting that it fell under the Schools Building Committee. He updated that the committee has been trying to resolve the problem at Columbus School for six months.

Council member Curwen said he understood the concerns about Columbus School, due to the kids that attend there. He recalled a prior meeting and concerning an agreement with the new board members and it was agreed that the matter belonged with the Schools Building Committee.

Council member Taylor-Moye agreed with Council member Holloway. She mentioned that She co-chairs the Education & Social Services Committee and she wasn't thoroughly aware about what's being done to remedy the situation at Columbus School. She suggested that information resulting from the Schools Building Committee be brought back to the Education & Social Services Committee at some point to keep them updated.

Council member dePara stated that he understood the concerns. He clarified that there was no intention to usurp the power of the Schools Building Committee. He explained the item was recommended to be added to the agenda due to the urgency of the matter. He stated that another pair of eyes and checks and balances wasn't too much to ask to have the Education and Social Services Committee look at the matter.

Council member T. McCarthy stated that he felt it was appropriate for a city council committee to hear the issues involving Columbus School. He said he believed it was property to hold a hearing to address the issue. Overall, the item was of an emergency nature in terms of timing and he thought it was appropriate to send the item to the Education & Social Services Committee.

Council member Martinez thanked Council member dePara for bringing the time to the floor. She expressed that the sooner the matter is addressed, the better it will for the school and the teachers. She further noted that the council member are always invited to attend the Schools Building Committee meetings.

Council member Brantley said she didn't have a problem with the item coming before the Education & Social Services Committee. She relayed that she received an email from a student who had concerns about what's going on at the school.

Mayor Finch stated that they will get to the bottom of the matter and he stressed that no children or employees will be allowed in the building until it's completely safe.

**** MOTION PASSED WITH SEVENTEEN VOTES IN FAVOR and ONE VOTE IN OPPOSITION (COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ)**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER WALSH MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES FOR THE PURPOSE OF REFERRING THREE (3) ITEMS TO THE ECONOMIC and COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BAKER SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Council member Walsh stated that the makers for the resolution were himself and Council members: Baker and Silva.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER WALSH MOVED TO REFER RE: RESOLUTION FOR THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF STEEL POINTE IN RELATION TO THE RUMORED DEVELOPMENT OF A WAL-MART ON THE SITE**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER A. AYALA SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER WALSH MOVED TO REFER RE: RCI MARINE RELATED TO TOPSOIL BEING REMOVED FROM THE SITE TO BE DEVELOPED**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER A. AYALA SECONDED**

A roll call vote was taken

**** MOTION PASSED WITH THIRTEEN VOTES IN FAVOR, FIVE VOTES IN OPPOSITION (COUNCIL MEMBERS: BRANTLEY, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MARTINEZ, PAOLETTO and CURWEN) AND ONE ABSTENTION (COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLOWAY)**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER WALSH MOVED TO REFER RE: RESOLUTION REQUEST FOR MORE INFORMATION RELATED TO DUE DILIGENCE PERFORMED, CONCERNING THE DEVELOPERS AT SEAVIEW PLAZA/CARPENTER STEEL**
**** COUNCIL MEMBER A. AYALA SECONDED**

**** *Mayor Finch asked the council members to raise their hand to indicate a yea or nay vote; by a show of hands, the***

**** MOTION FAILED**

**There was no official roll call vote*

Announcements:

Council member Brantley stated she wanted to recognize Reginald Walker and his efforts in celebrating the 125th birthday of Hall Neighborhood House. She expressed that he is still doing an awesome job, noting that they survived doing good work for 125 years.

Mayor Finch commented that Hall Neighborhood House was one of the oldest institutions in the City of Bridgeport.

Council President McCarthy congratulated the Mayor and all the council members who won the election – *he noted it was an impressive landslide!*

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO ADJOURN**
**** COUNCIL MEMBER A. AYALA SECONDED**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Graham
Telesco Secretarial Services